

Message Text

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67

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

USIE-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03

H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1347

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USDEL MTN GENEVA

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PASS USDA FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY BELL AND FAS/ANDERSON

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, CA

SUBJECT: GOC TO IMPOSE LICENSING REQUIREMENT ON BEEF AND VEAL
IMPORTS

1. SHANNON, DIRECTOR, COMMERCIAL POLICY, EXTAFF,
TELEPHONED ECON COUNSELOR AT 11:30 A.M. OCTOBER 13
TO INFORM HIM THAT LATER IN DAY AGRICULTURE MINISTER
WHELAN WILL ISSUE PUBLIC STATEMENT NOTING U.S. ACTION
ON MEAT IMPORTS AND INDICATING THAT EFFECTIVE AT
MIDNIGHT, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17 GOC WILL IMPOSE REQUIREMENT
FOR INDIVIDUAL LICENSES ON BEEF AND VEAL IMPORTS.
SHANNON POINTED OUT THAT THESE IMPORTS ARE ALREADY
SUBJECT TO REGULATION UNDER AUTHORITY OF EXPORT AND
IMPORT PERMITS ACT BUT UNTIL NOW HAVE BEEN COVERED BY
OPEN GENERAL LICENSE. SHANNON SAID HE WAS ALSO INFORMING
AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND HIGH COMMISSIONS.

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2. IN RESPONSE TO ECON COUNSELOR'S SUGGESTION THAT WHELAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT BE DEFERRED UNTIL AFTER USG/GOC CONSULTATIONS, SHANNON SAID DECISION TO GO AHEAD WITH ANNOUNCEMENT HAS ALREADY BEEN TAKEN AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL. HE EMPHASIZED THAT, WHILE LICENSING REQUIREMENT ESTABLISHES MECHANISM FOR CONTROLLING IMPORTS, GOC HAS NOT ESTABLISHED QUOTAS AND COULD WELL DECIDE TO ISSUE LICENSES FREELY. SHANNON SAID GOC SEES BILATERAL MEETING BEING ARRANGED IN WASHINGTON OCTOBER 14 OR 15 AS OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS BOTH IMPACT OF U.S. ACTION ON CANADIAN TRADE AND WHAT ACTION GOC MIGHT TAKE.

3. GLOBE AND MAIL OCTOBER 12 QUOTED WHELAN TO EFFECT THAT U.S. IMPOSITION OF QUOTA RESTRICTION ON CANADIAN BEEF WOULD VIOLATE AGREEMENT MADE WITH FORMER AGRICULTURE SECRETARY BUTZ. LATER ON SAME DAY WHELAN MET AMBASSADOR AT A SOCIAL FUNCTION AND COMPLAINED THAT USG ACTION WAS CONTRARY TO MORE RECENT UNDERSTANDING HE HAD WITH ACTING SECRETARY KNEBEL. ASKED TO COMMENT, SHANNON SAID HE DID NOT KNOW BASIS OF WHELAN'S ASSERTIONS, ALTHOUGH HE WOULD OF COURSE NOT BE AWARE OF WHELAN'S PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS. HE ADMITTED THAT WHILE THERE HAVE BEEN CONSULTATIONS ON TRADE ESTIMATES, ETC., THERE IS NOTHING ON RECORD TO HIS KNOWLEDGE "GUARANTEEING" CANADA ANY SPECIFIED LEVEL OF ACCESS TO U.S. MARKET.
ENDERS

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